

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUCHAR 02803 181214Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00
SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 DHA-02 ACDA-07
BIB-01 /062 W

-----181217Z 121432 /12

O R 181136Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2785
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USMISSION BERLIN UNN
USMISSION NATO
AMCONSUL MUNICH

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 2803

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CSCE, SHUM, PINT, RO
SUBJECT: ROMANIAN DISSIDENTS: BAPTISTS

1. SUMMARY. REPORTS INDICATE THAT ROMANIAN BAPTIST
DISSIDENT IOSIF TON WAS ARRESTED EITHER APRIL 2 OR 3,
INTERROGATED AT LENGTH AND IS CURRENTLY UNDER "HOUSE
ARREST", POSSIBLY AWAITING TRIAL ON CHARGES OF PASSING
DOCUMENTS ENDANGERING THE STATE SECURITY TO FOREIGN
ORGANIZATIONS, I.E. RFE. SEVERAL OF HIS FOLLOWERS HAVE
ALSO BEEN DETAINED AND PUT UNDER HOUSE ARREST. END SUMMARY.

2. SEVERAL SOURCES, INCLUDING BBC JOURNALIST AND THIRD
PARTY DIPLOMATIC REPORT FROM WIFE OF BAPTIST DISSIDENT
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IOSIF TON, CONFIRM SUBSEQUENT REPORT OF TON'S ARREST RE-
LATED APRIL 18 TO EMBOFF BY SEMINARY STUDENT WHO HAD
SPOKEN TO TON APRIL 17. ACCORDING TO STUDENT, TON WAS
ARRESTED IN IASI ON EITHER APRIL 2 OR 3 AND TAKEN TO
BUCHAREST. ON APRIL 4 FIVE OTHER SIGNATORIES (NICOLESCU,
POPESCU, CIOATA, CARAMEN AND DUMITRESCU) OF TON'S DOCUMENT
"THE NEO-PROTESTANT RELIGIONS AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN ROMANIA"

(BUCHAREST A-24, MARCH 3, 1977) WERE ALSO ARRESTED. ALL WERE INTERROGATED FOR NEXT 12-16 HOURS AND ASKED TO ADMIT CONTACT AND TREASONOUS INVOLVEMENT WITH FOREIGN CIRCLES. (COMMENT: ARRESTS APPEAR PRECIPITATED BY RFE APRIL 2 BROADCAST OF ABOVE MENTIONED DOCUMENT. TON WAS REPORTEDLY ORDERED BY SECURITATE TO ATTEMPT TO HALT RFE BROADCAST OF DOCUMENT, AS WELL AS OF A LATER SCHEDULED BROADCAST OF ANOTHER OF HIS DOCUMENTS, "A CALL TO TRUTH" (BUCHAREST A229, MARCH 21, 1977)).

3. ON APRIL 4 ALL WERE ALLOWED TO RETURN TO THEIR HOMES, ALTHOUGH THEY MUST REPORT DAILY TO THEIR LOCAL SECURITATE OFFICE. TON ALSO REPORTEDLY MET WITH INTERIOR MINISTER TEODOR COMAN WHO ACCUSED HIM OF DEINGRATING ROMANIA AND THREATENED TON AND THE OTHERS WITH TRIAL UNDER ARTICLES 157 AND 167 OF ROMANIAN PENAL CODE. WE DO NOT KNOW IF THEY HAVE SUBSEQUENTLY ACTUALLY BEEN CHARGED, ALTHOUGH ONE REPORT INDICATES THIS IS THE CASE. (COMMENT: ARTICLE 157(2) DEALS WITH THE TRANSMISSION TO "A POWER OR FOREIGN ORGANIZATIONS OR THEIR AGENTS" OF DOCUMENTS OR DATA WHICH THROUGH THEIR CHARACTER OR IMPORTANCE ENDANGERS THE SECURITY OF THE STATE. IT IS PUNISHABLE BY 5 TO 15 YEARS IN PRISON. ARTICLE 167 DEALS WITH THE FORMATION OF ANY GROUP TO ACCOMPLISH THE ABOVE PURPOSE.) TON HAS ALSO HAD HIS PASTOR'S LICENSE WITHDRAWN BY THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTS.

4. WE UNDERSTAND THAT PAVEL NICOLESCU, ALSO UNDER HOUSE ARREST, WAS ABLE TO CALL HIS WIFE'S SISTER IN WEST GERMANY
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LAST WEEK. HE ASKED HER TO GET THE INFORMATION CONCERNING THE ARRESTS TO EVANGELIST RICHARD WURMBRAND WITH A REQUEST THAT IT BE PUBLICIZED IN WEST.

5. COMMENT: GIVEN CURRENT CLIMATE HERE, GOR MAY WELL ATTEMPT TO PUT TOGETHER A CASE, PERHAPS EVEN A PUBLIC ONE, WHICH WOULD LINK TON AND THE OTHER BAPTISTS WITH RFE.
BARNES

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DOCUMENTS, SECURITY, ARRESTS, DISSIDENT FACTIONS, RELIGIOUS LEADERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 18-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BUCHAR02803
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770133-1031
Format: TEL
From: BUCHAREST
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770448/aaaabpmb.tel
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Litigation History:
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Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
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Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2779691
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ROMANIAN DISSIDENTS: BAPTISTS
TAGS: SHUM, PINT, RO, US, CSCE, (TON, IOSIF)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1dc9cba3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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